



Montana Audubon

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Testimony on HB 262
House Natural Resource Committee
January 29, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Janet Ellis and I'm here today representing Montana Audubon.

We support HB 262 because:

- This bill removes the 35 gallons a minute/10 acre-feet a year exemption that is allowing subdividers to pump ground water in Montana to the detriment of senior water right holders, surface water, and agricultural users.
- The way the law is being used right now, large-scale subdivision developers now rely heavily on this exemption and they are developing tens of thousands of wells without any consideration of the impact of these wells—individually or cumulatively—on ground or surface water.
- HB 262 only applies to high growth counties—where the impact can be seen.
- Ground water recharges Montana's rivers and streams. Ground water pumping under the current exemption will lead to problems—as experienced in other states.

Chapters:

Bitterroot Bitterroot Valley	Five Valleys Missoula	Flathead Kalispell	Last Chance Helena	Mission Mountain Polson	Pintlar Butte • Dillon	Rosebud Miles City	Sacajawea Bozeman	Upper Missouri Breaks Great Falls	Yellowstone Valley Billings
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